

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A retention system for a hand tool combination
2 having an axe having a non-metallic axe handle and a secondary tool having a non-
3 metallic tool handle, comprising:
4 a first magnet having a first polarity coupled to the non-metallic axe
5 handle;
6 a second magnet having a second polarity coupled to the non-metallic
7 tool handle of the secondary tool;
8 wherein the first polarity and the second polarity are configured for
9 attraction by a magnetic force;
10 so that the secondary tool is retained in connection with the axe in a
11 position with an end of the tool handle substantially flush with an end of the axe
12 handle.
- 1 2. (Previously Presented) The retention system of Claim 1 wherein the
2 first magnet is fixed to the axe.
- 1 3. (Previously Presented) The retention system of Claim 2 wherein the
2 second magnet is fixed to the secondary tool.
- 1 4. (Previously Presented) The retention system of Claim 3 wherein the
2 first magnet has one of a positive polarity and a negative polarity and the second
3 magnet has the other of the positive polarity and the negative polarity.
- 1 5. (Previously Presented) The retention system of Claim 1 wherein the
2 first magnet is substantially aligned with the second magnet when the secondary tool
3 is retained in a stowed position within a receptacle of the axe.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The retention system of Claim 1 wherein at
2 least one of the first magnet and the second magnet comprises a rare earth magnet.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The retention system of Claim 1 wherein the
2 secondary tool is one of a knife and a saw.

1 8. (Withdrawn) The retention system of Claim 1 wherein the first magnet
2 is at least partially offset from the second magnet.

1 9. (Withdrawn) The retention system of Claim 1 wherein the offset is
2 sufficient to maintain a magnetic attraction to draw the secondary tool toward a
3 stowed position in connection with the primary tool.

1 10. (Currently Amended) A combination hand tool having an axe
2 configured for storage of a secondary hand tool therein, the combination hand tool
3 comprising:

4 a receptacle formed within an elongated non-metallic handle of the
5 axe;

6 a first magnet having a first polarity coupled to the non-metallic handle
7 of the axe;

8 a second magnet having a second polarity opposite the first polarity
9 and coupled to a non-metallic handle of the secondary hand tool and configured to
10 operably engage the first magnet;

11 the secondary hand tool being retainable within the receptacle with an
12 end of the non-metallic handle of the axe substantially even with an end of the non-
13 metallic handle of the secondary tool by a magnetic force and selected from the group
14 consisting of a camping gear item, a survival gear item, a hiking gear item, and a
15 fishing gear item.

1 11. Cancelled.

1 12. (Withdrawn) The combination hand tool of Claim 10 wherein the first
2 magnetic member is coupled to an actuatable member configured to alternate a
3 polarity of the first magnetic member for interfacing with the second magnetic
4 member.

1 13. (Withdrawn) The combination hand tool of Claim 12 wherein the
2 actuatable member is a thumbwheel.

1 14. (Withdrawn) The combination hand tool of Claim 10 wherein the first
2 magnetic member and the second magnetic member are operable to at least partially
3 withdraw the second hand tool from the receptacle.

1 15. (Original) The combination hand tool of Claim 10 wherein the
2 magnetic force is a minimum of approximately 4000 gauss.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The combination hand tool of Claim 10
2 wherein the first magnet is fixed to the axe and the second magnet is fixed to the
3 secondary hand tool.

1 17. (Previously Presented) The combination hand tool of Claim 10
2 wherein the first magnet and the second magnet are configured in substantial
3 alignment when the secondary hand tool is retained within the axe.

1 18. (Withdrawn) The combination hand tool of Claim 10 wherein the first
2 magnet and the second magnet are configured in at least a partially offset relationship
3 when the secondary hand tool is retained within the primary hand tool.

1 19. (Withdrawn) The combination hand tool of Claim 12 wherein the
2 actuatable member is configured for rotational movement.

1 20. (Currently Amended) A system for storing an object in connection
2 with a camp axe, comprising:

3 a first retainer having a first magnet with a first polarity coupled to the
4 object;

5 a second retainer having a second magnet with a second polarity
6 coupled to the camp axe, the second magnet configured to attract the first magnet by a
7 magnetic attraction;

8 so that the first retainer and the second retainer are operable to retain
9 the object in connection with the camp axe in a position with an end of the object
10 substantially coplanar with an end of the camp axe until the object is removed by
11 overcoming the magnetic attraction;

12 wherein the object is selected from the group consisting of a knife, a
13 saw, a cooking utensil, a compartment, a camping gear item, a hunting gear item, a
14 fishing gear item and a survival gear item.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 20 wherein the object is
2 retainable at least partially within the camp axe.

1 22. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 20 wherein the first retainer is
2 configured to be actuatable between a first position for retention of the second object
3 and a second position for extraction of the second object.

1 23. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 22 wherein the first magnetic
2 member and the second magnetic member are attracted in the first position.

1 24. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 23 wherein the first magnetic
2 member and the second magnetic member are repelled in the second position.

1 25. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 20 wherein the first magnetic
2 member is fixed to the first object and the second magnetic member is fixed to the
3 second object so that the first magnetic member and the second magnetic member are
4 arranged in a relationship that is at least partially offset with respect to each other.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 20 wherein the camp axe
2 comprises an elongated handle providing a receptacle and the object is configured for
3 retention at least partially within the receptacle.

1 27. (Cancelled).

1 28. (Currently Amended) In an apparatus comprising a first cutting tool
2 having a receptacle and a second cutting tool configured for storage within the
3 receptacle, the improvement comprising a retention system having a first magnet with
4 a first polarity coupled to an interior portion of a non-metallic handle of the first
5 cutting tool and a second magnet with a second polarity coupled to an exterior portion
6 of a non-metallic handle of the second cutting tool, where the first polarity and the
7 second polarity are configured for magnetic attraction, so that the second cutting tool
8 is retained within the receptacle in a position where the ends of the first cutting tool
9 and the second cutting tool are substantially even until removed by a user.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein the first
2 cutting tool comprises an axe and the second cutting tool comprises a knife.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein the first
2 polarity is one of a positive polarity and a negative polarity.

1 31. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 30 wherein the first retainer is
2 configured to alternate the polarity of the first magnetic member relative to the second
3 retainer.

1 32. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 31 wherein the first magnetic
2 member is configured for rotation.

1 33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein the
2 receptacle is provided in a handle of the first cutting tool.

- 1 34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 28 wherein the first retainer is
- 2 actuatable between a first position for retention of the second hand tool within the
- 3 receptacle and a second position for withdrawal of the second hand tool from the
- 4 receptacle.